

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY EA:MSTEARNS:FMT

APPROVED BY EA:AWHUMMEL

S/S - MR. LUERS

----- 115040

O 282327Z JAN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 018390

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PFOR, VS, CH, HK

SUBJECT: PARACEL ISLANDS

1. UPI IS CARRYING SAIGON DATELINE STORY STATING QUOTE  
SOUTH VIETNAMESE WARSHIPS HAVE SURROUNDED PARACEL ISLANDS  
...SAIGON MILITARY COMMAND ORDERED SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF  
COUNTRY'S NAVAL FORCES TO STEAM TO ARCHIPELAGO LOST TO  
CHINA AFTER DAYS OF FIGHTING MORE THAN A WEEK AGO END QUOTE.

2. WE CONTINUE TO BE DEEPLY CONCERNED LEST VIETNAMESE VENT  
THEIR FRUSTRATION OVER PARACELS BY SOME IRRATIONAL  
MILITARY ACTION AGAINST CHINESE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE  
YOUR ASSESSMENT OF GVN MOOD AND TACTICS AS WELL AS BEST  
INFO YOU CAN DEVELOP ON VIETNAMESE AIR AND NAVAL ACTIVITY  
IN GENERAL AREA OF THE PARACELS.

3. WE ARE KEEPING IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH VIETNAMESE EMBASSY  
HERE, CAUTIONING THEM THAT RESORT TO MILITARY ACTION BY  
GVN AGAINST CHINESE WOULD NOT ONLY UNDERCUT OUR EFFORTS  
ON BEHALF PRISONERS AND WOUNDED, BUT WOULD ALSO WORK  
SECRET

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DIRECTLY AGAINST OUR EFFORTS TO SECURE SUFFICIENT  
MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR VIETNAM FROM  
CONGRESS.

4. WE KNOW THAT YOU SHARE OUR CONCERN ABOUT IMPLICATIONS  
OF PARACELS DISPUTE AND APPRECIATE ACTIONS YOU HAVE BEEN  
TAKING TO CALM VIETNAMESE. WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED  
CLOSEST POSSIBLE READING OF THEIR PLANS AND INTENTIONS  
AND YOU SHOULD CONTINUE TO RESTRAIN THEM IN ALL POSSIBLE  
WAYS. PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE TO MESSAGE FROM THIEU IS  
BEING DRAFTED AND WE WILL ATTEMPT TO REINFORCE THESE  
POINTS IN FRIENDLY BUT UNEQUIVOCAL LANGUAGE. KISSINGER

SECRET

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PEPR, US, VM  
**To:** SAIGON INFO HONG KONG  
PEKING  
CINCPAC  
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